

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The problem addressed by the instant method is to provide a process for dewatering hydrocyanic acid avoiding the use of a dehydrating agent which is laborious and expensive. [See page 2, lines 4-9].

This problem is solved according to the invention by distilling crude hydrocyanic acid at a pressure of from 1 bar to 2.5 bar, a bottom temperature of from 100°C to 130°C and a top temperature of from 25°C to 54°C, in the absence of a volatile stabilizer, in a distillation column to obtain a top draw stream comprising purified, anhydrous hydrocyanic acid and carbon oxides and a bottom draw stream comprising water and, optionally an involatile stabilizer.

[See page 2, lines 10-20].

None of the prior art of record anticipates or renders obvious the above claimed distillation of crude hydrocyanic acid in the absence of a volatile stabilizer; nor the further process of hydrocyanating olefins or dienes by the dewatering process as described *supra*.

Thus, the subject matter of claims 1-9 is neither disclosed by the prior art nor is obvious. The claims are deemed allowable over the prior of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Virginia Manoharan whose telephone number is 571-272-1450.

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/Virginia Manoharan/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797